

**House File 453 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 453  
BY COMMITTEE ON VETERANS  
AFFAIRS

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 123)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to veterans preferences in certain appointments  
2 made by counties and cities and making penalties applicable.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 35C.1, subsection 1, Code 2013, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. In every public department and upon all public works in  
4 the state, and of the counties, cities, and school corporations  
5 of the state, veterans who are citizens and residents of the  
6 United States are entitled to preference in appointment and  
7 employment over other applicants of no greater qualifications.  
8 The preference in appointment and employment for deputy county  
9 sheriffs is the same as provided in section 341A.8A. The  
10 preference in appointment and employment for employees of  
11 cities under a municipal civil service is the same as provided  
12 in section 400.10. For purposes of this section, "veteran"  
13 means as defined in section 35.1 except that the requirement  
14 that the person be a resident of this state shall not apply.

15 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 341A.6A Veteran eligibility.

16 If a veteran entitled to preference pursuant to section  
17 341A.8A has been honorably discharged between forty-five  
18 days before and sixty days after an examination or test is  
19 administered under section 341A.6, the commission may allow  
20 the veteran to be subject to such examination or testing up to  
21 ninety days following the date that the original examination  
22 or testing was conducted and if appropriate shall add the  
23 veteran's name and address to the eligibility list for a vacant  
24 position pursuant to section 341A.13.

25 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. 341A.8A Preferences.

26 In all examinations and appointments under this chapter,  
27 veterans who are citizens and residents of the United States,  
28 shall have five percentage points added to the veteran's  
29 grade or score attained in qualifying examinations or tests  
30 for appointment to positions and five additional percentage  
31 points added to the grade or score if the veteran has a  
32 service-connected disability or is receiving compensation,  
33 disability benefits, or pension under laws administered  
34 by the United States department of veterans affairs. An  
35 honorably discharged veteran who has been awarded the Purple

1 Heart incurred in action shall be considered to have a  
2 service-connected disability. However, the percentage points  
3 shall be given only upon passing the exam and shall not be the  
4 determining factor in passing. Veteran's preference percentage  
5 points shall be applied once to the final scores used to rank  
6 applicants for selection for an interview. For purposes of  
7 this section, "veteran" means as defined in section 35.1 except  
8 that the requirement that the person be a resident of this  
9 state shall not apply.

10 Sec. 4. Section 400.10, Code 2013, is amended to read as  
11 follows:

12 **400.10 Preferences.**

13 1. In all examinations and appointments under this chapter,  
14 other than promotions and appointments of chief of the  
15 police department and chief of the fire department, veterans  
16 who are citizens and residents of the United States, shall  
17 have five percentage points added to the veteran's grade or  
18 score attained in qualifying examinations for appointment  
19 to positions and five additional percentage points added to  
20 the grade or score if the veteran has a service-connected  
21 disability or is receiving compensation, disability benefits,  
22 or pension under laws administered by the United States  
23 department of veterans affairs. An honorably discharged  
24 veteran who has been awarded the Purple Heart incurred in  
25 action shall be considered to have a service-connected  
26 disability. However, the percentage points shall be given only  
27 upon passing the exam and shall not be the determining factor  
28 in passing. Veteran's preference percentage points shall be  
29 applied once to the final scores used to rank applicants for  
30 selection for an interview. For purposes of this section,  
31 "veteran" means as defined in section 35.1 except that the  
32 requirement that the person be a resident of this state shall  
33 not apply.

34 2. If a veteran entitled to preference pursuant to this  
35 section has been honorably discharged between forty-five days

1 before and sixty days after an examination is administered  
2 pursuant to section 400.8, the commission may allow the veteran  
3 to be subject to examination up to ninety days following  
4 the date the original examination was administered and if  
5 appropriate shall add the veteran's name to the list for  
6 original appointment pursuant to section 400.11, subsection 1.

7 EXPLANATION

8 This bill relates to military veterans preferences in  
9 certain appointments made by counties and cities.

10 The bill provides a preference of five percentage points  
11 for veterans in the appointment of deputy sheriffs under  
12 Code chapter 341A. The bill further provides an additional  
13 preference of five percentage points for veterans with  
14 service-connected disabilities and for veterans who have been  
15 awarded the Purple Heart incurred in action. The bill also  
16 provides that if a veteran is entitled to preference and has  
17 been honorably discharged between 45 days before and 60 days  
18 after an examination or a test is administered, the commission  
19 may allow the veteran to be subject to such examination or  
20 testing within 90 days following the original testing, and if  
21 appropriate shall add the veteran's name and address to the  
22 eligibility list for vacant positions.

23 The bill also provides that if a veteran is entitled to  
24 preference in city civil service employment and has been  
25 honorably discharged between 45 days before and 60 days  
26 after an examination is administered, the city civil service  
27 commission may allow the veteran to be subject to such  
28 examination within 90 days following the original examination,  
29 and if appropriate shall add the veteran's name to the list for  
30 original appointment.